

# Hardiness of Fruit Buds of Sweet Cherries, 1968-69

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The low temperatures of the winter of 1968-69, with the minimum of  $-21^{\circ}$  F on December 29 at the Research Station, afforded an opportunity to observe damage to fruit buds of sweet cherries. The range of damage was unusually wide, from 1% in the "wild" cherry selection Glenn Dale, to 99% in Bing. Following the main cold period, sample branches were forced in the greenhouse, fruit buds sectioned and the damage recorded. Fruit buds were classified into 3 groups as follows: Group 1—all blossoms in the bud killed; group 2—one to two of the (usually) three blossoms killed; group 3—all blossoms survived. In calculating the percentage of survived blossoms, half the number of fruit buds of the group 2 were added to the group 3. Two or more trees were sampled in commercial cultivars, while only one tree was usually available for observations in the less known cultivars or in seedling selections. Data are given for those named cultivars that have some commercial possibilities and those seedling selections that rated over 50% in the bud survival.

Of the hardier black cherries, Hudson and Starking Hardy Giant deserve particular attention. Hudson, a recent introduction from Geneva, N.Y., has been consistently hardy at Summerland. Starking Hardy Giant was among the very few sweet cherries that bore a full crop at Summerland in 1968, following a severe blossom killing spring frost. Compact Lambert has been slightly hardier than Lambert also in previous years (1964-65 and 1968). Badeborner is being grown in Germany to a limited extent.

The white cherry Saemling von Werth was relatively hardy, Buettners Spaete rote Knorpel, moderately tender. The Summerland selection 5J-9-8 and the Oregon variety Corum were rather tender, but hardier than Royal Ann or Sue.

Among the relatively hardy seedling selections, two appear promising, namely 5J-9-14 and 5N-34-15. The

Table 1. Per cent survival of fruit buds of selected sweet cherry cultivars and seedling selections at the Research Station, Summerland, B. C., 1968-69.

Hudson	85%
Giant	81
5G-26-4*	66
Seneca	65
Saemling von Werth	63
Starking Hardy Giant	63
5J-9-14*	62
5N-34-15*	58
Compact Lambert	57
Badeborner	56
4C-8-4*	56
Star	51
4C-16-27*	51
Sam	49
Jubilee	49
Lambert	47
Bigarreau de St. Charmez	46
Van	44
Farnstaedter	43
Buettners spaete rote Knorpel	39
Spaete Braune	39
Wesselhoeftskirsche	33
Mona	32
5J-9-8*	29
Corum	28
Stella	23
Venus	23
Royal Ann	21
Windsor	20
Sue	14
Noble	9
Bing	1

\*Numbered seedling selections from the Research Station, Summerland, B. C.

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selection 5J-9-14 was among the hardest also in the winter of 1964-65; it is a Van type medium early cherry. The selection 5N-34-15 is a good quality cherry of Bing type.

There is a good relationship between fruit bud hardiness as noted in Table 1 and the hardiness level of these cultivars known from previous experience. Particularly, the hardiness of one-year shoots, as determined by artificial freezing tests in 1963 and 1964 (1), and the hardiness of leaf

buds, as registered following the freeze of 1964-65 (2), have a good correlation with data collected in the present study.

#### REFERENCES

1. Lapins, K. 1965. Cold-hardiness of sweet cherries as determined by artificial freezing tests. *Can. J. Plant Sci.* Vol. 45. 529-435.
2. Lapins, K. 1966. Winter hardiness of sweet cherry varieties in the winter of 1964-1965. *Fruit Var. & Hort. Digest* Vol. 20(1). 7-8.

## The Spokane Beauty Apple

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Interest in this old variety, Spokane Beauty, has uncovered information that may be of historical value to horticulturists and hobby gardeners. This information came to light recently through the efforts of Mr. Ivan J. Donaldson, Fisheries Biologist, Bonneville Dam, Bonneville, Oregon, who successfully located budwood near the original tree.

Most of the historical information written here originated from letters and from direct personal conversations with Mr. C. Bert Miller, recent owner and long time operator of the Milton Nursery Company, Milton-Freewater, Oregon, whose father, Mr. Aaron Miller, discovered the variety.

Mr. Aaron Miller and family came to the Walla Walla Valley of southeastern Washington from the Santa Rosa area, Sonoma County, California in the year 1872, and at first lived on a farm known as the Maxon place. This pioneer farm was located about 7 miles east of the city of Walla Walla on Russell Creek, in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. It was in the year 1894, on this farm, that Mr. Miller discovered a seedling apple which

he named the Maxon Seedling. After establishing the nursery at its present location near Milton-Freewater in 1878, Mr. Miller propagated, among other apple varieties, nursery trees of this new variety. It was listed in some of the early Milton Nursery catalogues and sold under the name of Maxon Seedling.

The new variety was popular locally, and was displayed at the Spokane National Fruit Fair in 1895 and 1896 as part of a Milton Nursery display of nursery grown fruit varieties and fruit tree stocks. It was awarded first prize by the show judges who, at this time, renamed it "Spokane Beauty." Thereafter the variety was propagated under its new name by nurserymen throughout the Pacific Northwest.

A considerable number of trees of Spokane Beauty were propagated and sold, but it was never considered a first class commercial variety for the fresh fruit market. However, it was considered a very good general cooking apple. The following is a description of Spokane Beauty taken from a

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